

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

"For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody."—ISAIAH.

No. 16, Vol. XXVIII.

Saturday, April 21, 1866.

Price One Penny.

MINUTES OF A DISTRICT CONFERENCE

HELD IN THE GLASGOW DINING HALL, CAMBRIDGE STREET, BIRMINGHAM,
ON SUNDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 1866.

(Continued from page 228.)

Half-past 6, p.m.

Choir sung, "Go, ye messengers of glory," &c. Prayer by Elder W. W. Raymond. Choir sung, "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah," &c.

Elder Charles Widerborg then said—Beloved brethren, sisters and friends. I do not know if I will be able to make you hear me, but I will try my best, and I pray that God's Spirit may dictate the few words I may say. As President of the Scandinavian Mission, I now speak to you in obedience to the request of President Young. I am glad to bear my testimony with the other brethren. I was in Birmingham in 1860, at a Conference; since then I have been home to Utah, and sent out again on another mission. I was brought to a knowledge of the truth by one of the servants of God, who went to those northern countries of Europe—Elder Erastus Snow. Thousands, besides myself, have also embraced the truth in those countries, and I am happy to say that the same

Spirit actuates them as does you here.

In every assembly and meeting, I have heard them pray for the success of the Work in this land, as well as in their own. They try to live their religion as well as their circumstances will permit. The Saints in the Scandinavian Mission number 5388 souls, and more than 1000 baptisms have taken place during the last year. They are anxious to gather home to Zion, out of the spiritual bondage which exists amongst the people. I have been very happy in meeting with you in this Conference; and although not a native of England, and not being able to speak your language with good accent, yet I have been edified and built up by the remarks I have heard made. I can also say that I know this to be the Church and kingdom of God; not because men have testified unto me that it is so, but because I have received a knowledge of it myself; my Father in heaven has blessed me with this knowledge. God raised up the Prophet Joseph Smith, to prepare this genera-

tion to receive the Son of God, just as the Apostle John was sent to prepare the Jews for the coming of Jesus in the meridian of time. Joseph Smith was the man elected by God to do his work in the last days, and now our Prophet Brigham Young is his successor, and the mouthpiece of God unto the world. The Church of God is now restored, with all its privileges and blessings. The days will come when the world shall see we have the truth, to their own regret and sorrow, and will have to acknowledge the words of the Prophets. Not one jot or tittle of my word, said Jesus Christ, shall fall to the ground, neither is there any hand that can stay the kingdom of God. It has to be built up in a natural way. By this are the world deceived as of old; they expected the kingdom of God to come in great pomp and glory, but overlooked the fact that Christ must first come and die upon the cross as an atonement for their sins. It is just so now. God has instituted the simple principles of the Gospel we teach, but they are too simple for our friends. If they will but listen to our message and obey it, they shall receive a knowledge as well as ourselves. I am happy to unite with you, and pray the Lord may bless and save you all. I wish all men would listen to our teachings, for they are eternal life. I wish they would begin and prepare themselves to live eternally with God, to receive sanctified tabernacles, and a world purified from its wickedness. It is good to contemplate these things. I pray that God may bless the President of this Mission, and all who assist him. I pray that the bonds of those who are now in darkness upon the continent of Europe, may be speedily broken; that the truth may be carried unto them, and that they may be saved with us in the kingdom of God. May this be the happy lot of all, for Christ's sake. Amen.

President Brigham Young, Jun., said it was necessary to present the Authorities of the Church to the people, that they might testify their willingness to support them in their positions. The Authorities of the Church at home and abroad were then presented in the usual manner, and

the several motions unanimously sustained by the congregation.

Elder Orson Pratt, Sen., said—I feel happy to meet with so large a congregation as the one before me, also with so large a number of the missionaries from Utah. I am very glad to see you all. I am very glad to see the strangers who are present, and I would our hall had been larger, and then I think we should have had many more present at this time. Brethren, sisters and friends, we are living in a dispensation fraught with eventful circumstances; we are living in the last days, when the winding up scene of all things will shortly take place. How happy I am to live in such a day. What a happy time it has been to me, in trying to bless and save mankind; and although old age is now fast creeping upon me, yet I feel to thank God that I am what I am. I can look back for thirty-five years, and thank the Lord for his mercies vouchsafed to me, and for the glorious truths which I have learned. I have ever tried, from my youth up, to disseminate the principles of truth and justice, and I am not yet wearied. I feel to be as energetic to-day as ever. To live in a day when angels have visited the earth and communed with man, when we have Prophets in our midst, is to me a source of unspeakable joy; and to live in the enjoyment of the Holy Spirit, is a joy to me that cannot be surpassed. I have seen many of you that are present, before, and have lifted up my voice many times in the halls of Birmingham. I have been absent from this town about one year, since which time, in company with Elder Riter, I have labored principally upon the continent of Europe, in trying to introduce the truth to the nation of Austria; but the people there are so clothed with darkness, and priestcraft binds them down so fast, that our efforts have produced but little success as yet. I have now returned, and my year's labors have given me further experience and knowledge. You see before you on this Stand, the Elders who have travelled some seven thousand miles to preach the truth to you; not for speculation or gain, but for the salvation of the honest. Many left houses, lands, carriages,

everything, when the word came that they must go and preach the Gospel, warn the people, and testify of the things God is doing in these last days. No doubt the world consider it ridiculous that the Latter-day Saints should believe in Prophets, in these enlightened days of Christianity; but is it not more reasonable to believe in them, than to think that God has shut himself up from all communication with his children? Such a doctrine is revolting to my feelings. Give me the privilege to commune with my God, as in days of old, and let me hear the continual whisperings of his Holy Spirit, to lead me aright in the path of truth. When I read the records of the ancient Saints in the Bible, and learn what shall take place in these days, before Christ shall come again amongst us, no tongue can tell the joy I feel, when I see these events transpiring around me. Ridiculed and scorned though we may be, we know we have the truth, and that God is on our side. How consoling to these brethren around me to know, that God will sustain and assist them on their missions; to know that He can hear them when they cry unto him, and that their testimonies are preserved in the archives of heaven, against those who will persecute and oppose them.

I had the honor of personally knowing the Prophet Joseph Smith. I became acquainted with him when a boy, and have seen the power of God made manifest through him many times. I was also acquainted with the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, who saw the angel that gave to Joseph Smith his authority to act in the name of God. I know that this is the Work of God, and that the Book of Mormon is a true record. However much it may be ridiculed, it is a glorious book, and the prophecies therein written will be fulfilled to the very letter. I also know that the prophecies uttered by Joseph Smith, will be fulfilled upon this and other nations who reject the message we bring unto them. The American war came as the result of that nation disregarding our message unto them, and because of their wickedness in slaying the Prophet and Patriarch, and persecuting the Saints of God. The prophecy of Joseph re-

vealed the warfare which the nation has passed through, and which has been thus far literally fulfilled, and was published many years before the war commenced. I myself travelled through the States of America, and in the city of Washington warned the people of what would come upon them, but they heeded me not. They treated the message with contempt, as many others have done in this country, when the servants of God have prophesied to them, and warned them. The revelation which foretold the American war, also speaks of Great Britain, and says that it shall be involved in war with other nations, and shall be scourged with judgments, &c. Will this come to pass? It surely will, although the nations are now at peace, and in comparative harmony. Then do not be surprised that the Elders are so anxious to gather you out of this country to Zion, to save you from the calamities which will shortly burst forth. We dare not hold our peace concerning these things, lest the blood of the people should be found on our garments. To those of the Saints who cannot see any prospects of gathering, let me say: God will not forget you; do all you can, and leave the rest to Him. But to those who could gather out if they wished, and will not do so, let me warn such: woe unto you if you do not gather up speedily; and as was remarked this afternoon, if you do not, you shall surely see sorrow as the consequence of neglecting to obey the voice of God.

Elder James McGaw said—I have pleasure in adding my humble testimony. This Work is not like the Work commenced by Jesus Christ, to be overcome, and its servants destroyed, but is never more to be thrown down or given to another people. This Church was organized with six members, and see how it has progressed in a few years. It has met with opposition, but its course has been onward, and it now numbers its hundreds of thousands. Is this not a testimony of its truth? The Saints are gathering to Zion, where there is peace and prosperity. The people there are also making great efforts to assist you here in gathering. This year they are

down 500 teams to the frontiers, to gather up all the Saints who can manage to reach there. The expense of these teams, &c., being sent down, will be about £50,000, and this is being done by the poor Latter-day Saints. What greater sign of the times in which we live could be given unto the world, than is presented by these 500 teams? But other signs are beginning to make themselves manifest. The angels of God are now visiting the earth, and communing with man as anciently; and yet, in spite of all these things, our friends will not believe our testimony, although we also promise those who will obey our doctrines, that they shall receive a knowledge of the truth from God for themselves. May God bless you Saints; begin and leave no stone unturned, to save means to leave this country and go up to Utah. That is the place Isaiah spoke of, when the people should say, Come ye and let us go up to the House of the Lord, that is being established in the tops of the mountains. This is a gathering dispensation, and after the first principles are taught you, then gather out to the place appointed by God. May you continue faithful and wear a crown of life, is my prayer. Amen.

Elder William Gibson said—I feel glad to have an opportunity of saying a few words. Four years ago I was in this town, and bore my testimony to the truth. Since then I have been to Utah, and have now returned to bear the same testimony. I have proved this to be the Work of God, and know the Prophet Brigham to be a man of God, strict in his integrity. He is to us our mouthpiece unto God. If a proof is wanted of our faith, you have it in these my brethren, who have come so far for the good of their fellow-men. We love God, and show our love by coming here to bless you. We court no man's favor, and, thank God, we fear no man's frown. The Work of God must roll on and prove victorious. Brethren and sisters, hear what has been said unto you this day, and gather out to the West. Salvation

is held out to all who will believe and obey. The world despise us because we are weak and unlearned, but God has chosen the weak to confound the mighty and the wise. The principles spoken of by Elder Pratt this evening, are glorious. The powers of Satan have battled with this Work, and will continue so to do, but let the nations beware. In the days of Christ, those who stumbled over the stone of the kingdom were dashed to pieces, we are told; but on whomsoever it now falls, it will grind to powder. Then gather home to Zion. What have you to stay here for? What have you to live for in this country? Why, sin and poverty continually stare you in the face; your streets are full of corruption, and those things which will condemn the people. When you go to Zion, take Zion with you in your hearts, as it is easy to be a Saint in appearance, but quite another thing to be one in heart. I glory in my religion—it is my all. It has given to me that which the world cannot give, nor take away. Like Job of old, I know that my Redeemer liveth, “and though after my skin worms may destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.” What is death and hell to us? If faithful, we will have the power of God to place us beyond these terrors. Everything that has been promised to me will be mine, if I will only live for it; and is that not worth living for, and, if necessary, dying for? To know God is life eternal. Then let the world persecute and slander us to their heart's content, we fear it not. Their time is short, for soon shall all wickedness and lies perish. Again I testify that this is the Work of God, and I have proved it in thousands of ways. My prayer is, that the honest in heart may hear the truth, and be saved in the kingdom of God. Amen.

Conference was then dismissed till January 1867. Choir sung, “Before Jehovah's awful throne,” &c. Conference dismissed with prayer by President Brigham Young, Jun.)

A great, a good, and a right mind, is a kind of divinity lodging in flesh; and may be the blessing of a slave as well as of a prince. It came from heaven, and to heaven it must return; and it is a kind of heavenly felicity, which a pure and virtuous mind enjoys in some degree even upon earth.

ASCERTAINED FACTS RELATING TO THE DEAD SEA.

(Continued from page 232.)

"Count de Berton, who visited the Dead Sea in April, 1835, thus writes : "In attempting to describe the scenes which we had yesterday beheld, I felt the utter inadequacy of words to express my feelings. I had wandered through the Alps, the Pyrenees, and many other mountains. I had seen countries blasted by the curse of the Almighty, the plains of Moab and the land of Ammon, but had hitherto seen nothing to compare with the mountains of Zoarah and Esdrom. Here is a desolation on the grandest scale, and beyond what the imagination of man could conceive : it must be seen—to describe it is impossible. In this striking and solemn waste, where nature is alike destitute of vegetation and inhabitants, man appears—but an atom ; all around is enveloped in the silence of death—not a bird, not even an insect is seen ! The regular step of our camels returned a dull sound, as if the earth were hollowed beneath their feet ; the monotonous chant of the camel driver accompanied at times the step of this inhabitant of the desert, but was suddenly stopped, as if he feared to awaken nature. Three Bedouins went before us to examine the road, for we have to fear meeting with Arabs, who might be enemies to our tribe. The sun concealed itself by thick clouds, and seemed unwilling to shine upon the land cursed by the Almighty. We saw the traces of several wolves. Everything seemed to combine to make the landscape a scene awfully sublime."—*Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*, vol. ix, p. 280.

Even M. de Sauley, whose remarks on the traditions of the ancients, when he first reached these shores, were all too flippant, had an opportunity of witnessing a scene which penetrated him and his associates with a conviction that they were, after all, in a region of no common gloom. We can only transcribe the chief sentences in his account :—"When we had attained a point above the level of the

Dead Sea sufficiently elevated, we were singularly fortunate in being present at a spectacle few men can hope to witness twice in their lives, and which demands a passing comment. We may almost say that we saw the catastrophe of the Pentapolis, and are still under the strong impression of the scene that we gazed on with the most intense excitement. When we began ascending the first acclivities, large black clouds, driven by the westerly wind, passing above our heads and over the Djebel Esdrom, rushed down upon the Dead Sea, in the direction of the Rhor-Safieh, then rising again along the flank of the mountains of Moab, soon cleared the view, and allowed us to contemplate the expanse of water, resembling a vast motionless sheet of molten lead. By degrees, as the storm hurried towards the east, the western sky became again fine and radiant ; then, for a moment, the setting sun darted above the mountains of Canaan fiery rays, which seemed almost to cover the summits of the land of Moab with the flames of an enormous conflagration, while the bases of those imposing mountains remained as black as ink. Above was the dark, lowering sky ; below, the sea, like a metallic sheet of dull, leaden gray ; around us, the silence of the desert, and utter desolation ; afar off, in the west, a bright and cloudless sky, shining over a blessed country, whilst we seemed to be flying from a country condemned forever.

"It is impossible to describe this scene, which, to be fully understood and felt, must have been witnessed. Our Bedouins themselves, though accustomed to the grandest operations of nature, participated in the sensations by which we were completely mastered. 'See, sir, see !' they exclaimed to me, 'Allah is smiting Sodom !' And they were right. The tremendous spectacle which was witnessed by Lot, from nearly the same spot where we were now standing,

must have borne a striking resemblance to the magnificent repetition with which we had just been favored by the same presiding Providence."—Vol. i, pp. 526-28.

Whilst these extract will do much to justify travellers of an imaginative temperament, and in a superstitious age, from the imputation of wanton exaggeration, they naturally conduct our thoughts to the consideration of that catastrophe which has invested these regions with their thrilling and unrivalled interest.

The accounts which Moses has preserved in the book of Genesis, of this region, before and after the destruction of the cities of the plain, will now require our attention, in order to harmonize them with the topographical phenomena we have already noticed.

The first notice we have of this remarkable region, occurs in Gen. iii. 10, where it is called "the Plain of Jordan," well watered everywhere, as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. This raises the question about the course of the Jordan, which flows south, and at present terminates in the Dead Sea. That distinguished traveller, Burckhardt, when exploring Edom, found a broad valley, El Araba, extending from the eastern arm of the Red Sea, to the southern extremity of the Dead Sea. He, therefore, constructed a theory, that the Jordan once flowed between the mountains of Canaan and Moab, and so held on its course into this valley, until it emptied itself into the gulf of Akabah, the eastern horn of the Red Sea, leaving the present bed of the Dead Sea a fertile plain. Colonel Leake, in his preface to Burckhardt's Travels, approves of this theory, "as confirming

the truth of that great volcanic convulsion described in the 19th chapter of the book of Genesis, which interrupted the course of the river, which converted into a lake the fertile plain occupied by the cities Adma, Zeboim, Sodom and Gomorrah, and which changed all the valley, to the southward of that district, into a sandy desert."

This theory, which, as such, is really beautiful, and so plausible as to secure the approval of many men of science, has been proved utterly untenable. The Count de Bertou has traversed the whole extent of El Araba, and has ascertained that the level of the Red Sea is much higher than that of the Dead Sea, and the plain of Jordan generally, and, consequently, as that river could not flow up hill, it was not possible that its waters were ever emptied into the gulf of Akabah. Besides, he found that all the springs that rise south of the Dead Sea, do not take a southerly direction towards the gulf, but flow north towards the Dead Sea. To these discoveries Mr. W. R. Hamilton, in his anniversary address before the Royal Geographical Society, in 1839, referred and said—"We have a satisfactory solution of the problem, whether the waters of the Dead Sea could ever have flowed into the gulf of Akabah. M. de Bertou has shown that there is an elevated range of land, not volcanic, which forms the termination of the valley called El Ghor. This ridge causes a division of the waters flowing north to the Dead Sea, and south to the Ælanitic Gulf, and lies between these two seas, about two-thirds of the distance from the former."

"CHAIN GANG OF STATES."

CONGRESS INAUGURATING A REVOLUTION—A WAR OF RACES IN PROSPECT.

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[The following article from the *New York Herald*, describes in a clear and concise manner, that condition of things in which the wise and prudent may behold the fulfilment of the prophecies of Joseph Smith;

but in which the ignorant seem only to recognize the natural results of a pre-existent condition without acknowledging therein an overruling Providence.]

No person can contemplate the action of Congress without forebodings for the future. This is to us the darkest hour in the history of the country. It is true that we have crushed an extensive and powerful rebellion. The disputed question in regard to the interpretation of the Constitution, has been appealed to the arbitration of arms and settled. It has been disposed of finally and forever, by the removal of the cause of disagreement, in the total abolition of slavery. In this decision the people of the revolted sections have acquiesced and now come back, asking from the Government the privilege of enjoying all the blessings of restored Union, and the exercise of their legitimate rights under it. At this point they are met by Congress, which defiantly refuses admittance, thus, in effect, saying that those States which could not secede by passing ordinances of secession, which could not sever their connection with the Union by the sword and bayonet, are nevertheless out by the will of Congress. Thus the nation, which has been convulsed by war, and is now longing for peace and re-union, is kept under agitation by a fanatical and revolutionary Congress.

Nor is this all. The daily records of the proceedings of that body are filled with inflammable torches, which, being applied to the body politic, are kindling the fires of another revolution more extensive, fierce and relentless, than that from which we have just emerged. The Jacobins in Congress are doing their utmost to bring about a war of races—the worst of all wars. Instead of pursuing a course of pacification, they are trying to stir up strife, and are sowing the seeds which, sooner or later, if they continue, will deluge the streets of our Northern cities and the plains of the South, with rivers of blood. There will be scenes of bloodshed to which the insurrection in St. Domingo and Jamaica, with all its chapters of horrors, will furnish no comparison.

The enemies of this country in Europe were constantly predicting, during our late war, that it made no difference whether the North succeeded on the battle field or not, the Union was destroyed, and the country

could never be united again. The South, they declared, might be whipped, but they would never renew their allegiance to the Union. We have already seen how false and erroneous has been this prediction. Even those who were the loudest in proclaiming it, have long since admitted their error. But instead of this evil threatening us, we have one still more formidable, pregnant with the most dire results. Towards this we are drifting with an alarming velocity. The war for the preservation of the Union has ended. The Chief Magistrate of the nation inaugurated a policy under which the country was rapidly changing from a warlike attitude to that of peace. Our gallant soldiers are rapidly returning to their homes, and resuming their places around the family fireside. Just at this stage Congress assembles, and at once arrays itself against this course of events.

Not only are the revolutionary faction which control that body, laboring to arrest this march of peace, but they are plunging us into inextricable difficulties. Before the blood of our soldiers who fell in battle is cold, or the grass is green upon their graves, the Jacobins are endeavoring to force a war of races upon the country, and carry desolation to the very heart of our populous cities and thriving villages. Here we stand, a nation burdened by an enormous debt, with the tax-gatherer at each elbow; our commerce, which was nearly driven from the sea, again trying to resume its place; one section of the country paralyzed by the stern events of war, yet struggling to arise, Phoenix-like, from the ashes, and yet Congress actually refusing to render assistance, and insisting upon adding fuel to the flame, and holding the country down with its fanatical grip—all for the purpose of retaining party supremacy. This is the picture which is now presented to our view. This is the feast which is now being prepared for us by those whom the people supposed were their representatives in the National Legislature. Sad as it is, painful as it may be to look upon, it is nevertheless a solemn and living reality.

The revolutionary faction, under the lead of their Dantons, Marats and

Robespierres, in Washington, are instigating measures and passing laws upon the pretext of protecting the blacks, that must eventually lead us to a direct conflict between the Anglo-Saxon and African races in this country. Thus, while pretending to be the friend of the negro, they are in reality his enemy, and hastening the day of reaction which will sweep him from our land. The blacks, in their joy over their freedom, and their rejoicing over their proposed political rights, little dream of the volcano which is beneath them, or the fires of destruction which their pretended friends are kindling around them.

A great noise is made by the fanatics in Congress about distinction of color, but the very steps which they are taking, are increasing that prejudice and adding to that feeling which nature has planted in the breast of every man. There is a point beyond which the people will not be passive lookers on. To that point we are rapidly being pushed by the modern Jacobins.

The people of the North realized but little of the hardships of the recent war. We saw the tax-gatherers approach our doors; we saw the wives and daughters of those gallant soldiers who fell in battle put on weeds of mourning; we saw the maimed and crippled brought back from the front, but beyond this it was but a dream. It came and passed away like a storm in the winter, leaving here and there a mark indicating that something unusual had transpired. The people in many sections of the South, however, saw more of its solemn realities. Families were broken up and homes destroyed, all of which was but the legitimate penalty of rebellion and attempt to destroy the Government.

But even this hardship and suffering is small in comparison to that which will follow the conflict that Congress is forcing upon us. The fanatics of that body are leading us, step by step, into a bloody contest that will extend to every section of the country. Its evil results, its hardships and de-

vastation, will not be confined to one section, but extend over all localities, east and west, north and south. A war of races opens wide the door for rapine and murder. It affects the highest and the lowest. We have but to refer to the horrible scenes that transpired in St. Domingo at the close of the last century, and those of Jamaica but a few months since, to realize its horrors and dangers. During the late war all could count upon the enjoyment of life. No person was in danger of the bullet unless he was in front, when the contending armies stood face to face. But let a war of races be once fully inaugurated—and at the present rate it will come sooner than we expect—and the assassin is at the door of every citizen, at his side when he walks the street, and he knows not when he leaves his home in the morning, whether those whom he holds dear will be alive when he returns at night. The contest will be the most fierce in the South, for there the races are more evenly balanced. But it is idle to suppose that we shall escape its dreadful results here.

We write thus earnestly, for we see the storm coming. We see the fires burning, and Congress engaged in fanning the flames and increasing the danger. It is impossible to look dispassionately upon their work, without seeing the dreadful calamity that will visit us unless measures are taken to arrest its progress. We saw enough in the riots in this city, we have heard enough of the deeds along the valley of the Mississippi, to warn us of the danger ahead. Seeing the whole country standing, as it seems to us, on the verge of a precipice, we raise our voice of warning in the hope that even Congress may pause in the storm, and see where it is drifting. The conservative portion of that body have the strength and power to arrest the evil, if they only have the courage. Will they not take hold like men, and assist the President in resisting the fanatical tide, and thus earn for themselves the plaudits of their countrymen?

The fruits of the earth do not more obviously require labor and cultivation to prepare them for our use and subsistence, than our faculties demand instruction and regulation, in order to qualify us to become upright and valuable members of society, useful to others, or happy in ourselves.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1866.

TRUST IN GOD.

FAITH in God and his Son Jesus, is constantly the mainspring by which the people of the Latter-day Kingdom move, and maintain a religious and political existence upon that boasted land of freedom, in spite of the vile calumnies and myriads of plans which have been, and are still being concocted for their destruction. As faith has been lately touched upon in our columns, we wish to add a few words, quoting from the Book of Mormon, respecting that fundamental principle of our religion. It is no new thing to the Saints, to tell them that the Christian world are wholly devoid of faith; and, indeed, one has only to bring the test of Scripture, and the open avowals of each Christian denomination, to fully prove that they are wholly destitute of that principle of faith, without which it is impossible to please God. In the writings of Moroni, who hid up the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated, we find the following, which is most clear and pointed in shadowing forth the present condition of the religious world:—"And Christ hath said, if ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me. And he hath said, repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me that ye may be saved. And now my beloved brethren, if this be the case that these things are true which I have spoken unto you, and God will shew unto you with power and great glory at the last day, that they are true; and if they are true, has the day of miracles ceased? Or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has He withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved? Behold, I say unto you nay, for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore if these things have ceased, woe be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain; for no man can be saved, according to the words of Christ, save they shall have faith in his name; wherefore, if these things have ceased, then has faith ceased also; and awful is the state of man; for they are as though there had been no redemption made." Hear the voice of one crying from the dead—Oh! ye Christian nations, why will ye deny God the right to control in your councils? Why

will ye deprive yourselves of the blessings obtainable in the Gospel, and cast aside, as worthless, the counsels and commandments of Jehovah?

We turn to the Saints of the Most High, and expect a far greater manifestation of faith, than can be exercised by those in the world who know not God. But we fear there are some who are becoming faint-hearted, because they have not yet heard of a vessel being chartered for their accommodation, particularly those who are compelled to vacate farms, houses, or surrender other property by which they have hitherto obtained a livelihood. The faith of the people can be tested in these items, in showing forth their entire confidence in God, as did their brethren who forsook their fruitful fields in Jackson county, and their fine dwellings and magnificent Temple, which had cost years of unremitting toil to complete, at the city of Nauvoo. Be thankful for what you already possess, and let your trust in God be firm and unshaken; and although it is difficult to obtain vessels, owing to the numerous losses during the past winter, yet we are in the hands of God; and what President Young counsels in his letter, is applicable to all—"Do not be discouraged, but be cheerful and hopeful; you will be competent to every duty, if you will only put your trust in God."

Man may doubt his own strength or ability; but, brethren, we cannot doubt that Power which has so long maintained the faithful, causing their hearts to burn within them, and sing praises to God on high, and on earth peace and good will to man.

DEPARTURES.

✓ Elders John Sharp jun., and Harrison Shurtleff sailed from Liverpool for New York per steamship *City of Boston* on the 11th inst., also Elders Wilford Woodruff jun., Elnathan Eldridge jun., and Ensign I Stocking, per steamship *Erin*.

These brethren have been faithful in discharging the duties incumbent upon them as laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. They were released to return home by the Council held at Birmingham in January, except Elder Shurtleff, who was appointed to the Presidency of the Preston Conference, but his health subsequently failing, it was deemed wisdom for him to return to his mountain home. They return to their families and friends in Zion with the approbation of the servants of God.)

THE IMPORTANCE OF GATHERING.

(From the *Western Standard*.)

Every Latter-day Saint who contemplates the situation of things, as they at present exist throughout this country, must be forcibly struck with the propriety and wisdom of God in revealing the doctrine of the Gathering. The necessity of the Saints gathering to the place appointed by the Lord, has been preached, for years, by the Elders of the Church, and the truthfulness of the

doctrine has been abundantly proved from the Scriptures. Numbers of the Saints have, from time to time, gathered, believing that it was their duty to do so, and that it was as obligatory upon them to obey that principle, when they became acquainted with it, as it was any other that the Lord had revealed. It mattered not, to such ones, whether the judgments and calamities, which the Elders said were coming on the earth and its inhabitants, were to come immediately, or to be years in coming; whether, by gathering, they were going to a better or poorer land than the land they then lived in, or whether the movement was likely to improve or injure their worldly circumstances. To those who rightly estimated their religion, and the privileges they would obtain by living up to it, these things were of secondary importance, they had but little weight in influencing their decision as to the propriety of their going to the body of the Saints; and their subsequent experience has taught them the wisdom of being thus decisive. When the Lord reveals a principle for men to obey, it is unwise in them to weigh the advantages and disadvantages attending obedience to it; they are too short-sighted, and, therefore, not competent to decide upon the benefits that will accrue from compliance with the command. But, even if men were *not* to be benefited temporally—if there were no judgments, calamities and perplexities to escape by gathering out from the midst of Babylon, it would be improper and criminal for men to hesitate, when a direct and positive command is given; for, in the kingdom of God, the benefits and advantages to be derived are only to be obtained through obedience. How much more willing, then, ought men to be to obey a command, when, in reality, it is directly conducive to their interests, in a temporal as well as in a spiritual point of view. In reality, it is not so much of a sacrifice to gather to the place appointed, and men do not forego so many pleasures and enjoyments, as they sometimes imagine they do. There may be individual cases where their temporal circumstances are, for the time being, injured; but the mass of the people have been benefited, rather than otherwise, by the change; and there is an equivalent to be obtained in the peace which prevails there, that amply remunerates for every sacrifice. Indeed, the situation of the people of Utah, with all the trials and privations they have had to endure, is an enviable one, and infinitely preferable to that of any people we are acquainted with; and we think that, if any people ever had cause to bow down, morning, noon and night, and thank the Lord for the blessings they enjoy, it is that people.

The time will come, and it is very evident that it cannot be far distant, when men will flee to the land where the Saints reside, to enjoy the peace not to be obtained elsewhere, and to be in a position, also, where they will not be required to witness and participate, daily, in scenes of strife and bloodshed. Thinking, observing men, if they will but look around them, must acknowledge that the causes are already at work which, if not eradicated, will produce this. Numbers, however, flatter themselves with the idea that the progress and increase of crime will be stayed, that there is a better time coming; but we cannot discover upon what foundation they predicate such a hope. Men may delude themselves with the hope that, as crime always has existed, there need be no more apprehension indulged in now than formerly; but they have only to consult their own memories to be convinced that crime has fearfully increased within the last few years, and that, if its increase continues in the same ratio, life and property will, ere long, be held by a very uncertain tenure. Measures have been taken to stop these evils and extirpate them; but with

what success, may be ascertained, by a perusal of our columns this week. Six weeks have been spent, by some of the most influential citizens of this city, (San Francisco,) with this intention; the accomplishment, however, of such a result, seems as far distant to-day, as it did when they began. Such methods cannot eradicate the evils which are now at work, destroying the peace and security of society. The fiat has gone forth, in relation to these things, and it will not return unfulfilled. We confess that it is a mystery to us, why Latter-day Saints, when they view the circumstances by which they are surrounded, as they really exist, can see no reason for the doctrine of the Gathering to be fully believed in and acted upon, as fast as circumstances will possibly admit. In the world, distrust and suspicion are manifestly increasing on all hands; the insecurity of property has become proverbial, and peace—one of the most precious boons of heaven—is not to be obtained. The opposite of this is the case—acknowledged even by our enemies—among the people of Utah. There, men can enjoy the blessings of peace; and, if they will only seek to obtain it, they can enjoy a feeling of confidence in those by whom they are surrounded, that will drive away all distrust and suspicion. To enjoy these blessings, and to be obedient to the commandments of God, the Saints should be willing to make any sacrifice that might be required; for, although they may, at present, enjoy an exemption from the troubles and perplexities with which others may be annoyed, yet they have no assurance that this will be the case always. “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself.”

CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLAND.

Liverpool. April 7, 1866.

President Brigham Young, Jun.

Dear Brother,—As I have been released to return home on account of ill health, I feel it a duty to give you a brief account of my labors in this country. I arrived in Liverpool on the 25th day of July, 1864, in company with President Wells, yourself, and Elder Hatch. In the evening of the same day, I received an appointment to labor as Travelling Elder in the Nottingham Conference, under the direction of Elder H. J. Richards, as Conference President, and Elder James Townsend, as District President. I continued my labors in that Conference until the Council held in Birmingham, January 1865, when I was appointed to preside over the Dorsetshire Conference, under the direction of Elder C. W. Stayner, District President. I labored in this Conference about one year, teaching the people the way of life and salva-

tion; and although but few persons embraced the truth during my labors therein, I feel that I did my duty in warning the people of the judgments about to be poured out upon the wicked, and in testifying to them of the truth of the Gospel which we preach. At the General Council held in Birmingham, January 1866, I was appointed to the Presidency of the Preston Conference, under the direction of Elder W. R. Smith, District President, where I continued my labors in the ministry until released to return home. In each of these Conferences I have enjoyed myself much, and have performed my duty to the best of my ability. I have received much good counsel from the brethren presiding over me, and I feel to say—God bless them.

As I am about to leave this country, I do so with the consciousness of having done my whole duty, as far as circumstances would permit. This, to me, is a source of pleasure, and I feel

thankful that I was accounted worthy to come upon this mission. I look upon the last two years as the happiest and most profitable of my life.

I have labored in weakness, putting my trust in God, who has never failed to bless me with his Spirit. I know that the Work in which we are engaged, is the Work of God, and that the people called Latter-day Saints are His people, and I hope that by obedience and faithfulness, I may ever be found worthy of a name and place among them.

Thanking you for the many expressions of kindness to me, and praying God to impart to you every needful blessing, I am your brother in Christ,
H. T. SHURTLEFF.

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President Brigham Young, Jun.

Dear Brother,—As I am about to leave these lands, and start on my homeward journey, I feel it a duty incumbent upon me to write you a brief account of my labors in the ministry, since called to officiate as an Elder in the Church of Christ; and to make an expression of my feelings, and thankfulness for the blessings which I have realized during my sojourn in these lands, administering to the Saints.

This is the first mission upon which I have been sent as a minister of the Gospel. I was called, together with a number of young Elders, in the spring of 1863, to fill a mission to Europe. I left my mountain home on the 30th of April, in the same year, in company with Elders H. J. Richards, J. H. Felt, B. J. Stringam, and S. H. Hill. I arrived in Liverpool on the 25th of July, in company with eleven other Elders, making twelve in all, which fact earned for us on board ship the title of "The Twelve," as we were "Mormons," but we were nevertheless treated respectfully.

On my arrival in Liverpool, I received an appointment from President George Q. Cannon, as Travelling Elder in the Dundee Conference, under the direction of Elder M. McCune, in which position I continued until the General Council held in Birmingham, January 1864, when I was appointed to succeed Elder McCune in the Pre-

sidency of that Conference, he being released to return home. I labored in this position until October of the same year, when I was called by President D. H. Wells to take charge of the Swedish District, under the direction of Elder Charles Widerborg, President of the Scandinavian Mission. I studied the Swedish language diligently for some time, in order to gain an understanding of it, so that I might be able to bear my testimony to that people of the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, revealed to Joseph Smith in this last dispensation. I continued to labor in Sweden a little more than a year, and in December 1865, I received an invitation, when in the city of Stockholm, from President Widerborg, to accompany him to England, to attend a General Council of Elders to be held in Birmingham, January 1866. I accepted the invitation, and attended the Council, where I was released by yourself to return home. I accept this release thankfully, and return home with joy, for I love to live amongst the Saints of God in Utah, where peace, and the principles of virtue, truth and righteousness prevail.

I feel thankful to the Lord and his servants, that I was called to the ministry, and that I was appointed on this mission to Europe, which has given me an experience in many things which will be of lasting good, and make me far more useful than I otherwise could have been.

I have received much kindness from the Saints amongst whom I have labored, and much good instructions from brothers McCune and Widerborg. During my labors in Scandinavia, President Widerborg was all that a father could be to me, in counselling and instructing me in the things appertaining to my duties, and I pray that the Lord may always bless and prosper him, for I know he is a good man. I beg leave to return my sincere thanks to yourself, Elder Widerborg, and the Saints in Scotland and Scandinavia amongst whom I have labored, for the kindness which I have experienced at your hand and theirs; and as I am about to return to the home, friends and relatives that I left, to promulgate the truths of heaven to this people, I

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would say that my faith in the Gospel, for which I have labored, is far greater now than when I left the home of the Saints, because I have learned more concerning it, and can bear my testimony that it is of divine origin.

Praying that the Lord may bless you with all necessary blessings, I am your brother in the Gospel,

JOHN SHARP, JUN.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

AMERICA.—In the United States another political "crisis" has been reached. Congress, some time since, passed the "Civil Rights Bill," the object of which was to force all the Southern States to place the negro upon an equality with the white man, and which was duly presented to the President for his approval or rejection. Upon this Bill he decided, as in the case of the Freedman's Bureau Bill, to use his Veto power, and returned the same to Congress, with his objections thereto. It can now become a law only by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses. The President places his objections to the Bill, upon the broad ground which he took in relation to the Veto of the Freedman's Bill. This second Veto has provoked the Radicals to an extent almost beyond endurance, for they had prepared this Bill, as they thought, in such a moderate way, that it would surely secure the President's approval. They will, of course, use this Veto act as a reason for the most terrific onslaught upon the President, but which attack will be repelled by the popular feeling, as was the Radical abuse caused by the previous Veto. Strenuous efforts are being made by the Radicals in both Houses of Congress, to pass the Bill over the Veto. Almost every power has been brought to bear upon Republicans suspected of affiliation with the President. For the moment, presidential Patronage seems to have lost its allurements, and in the House the Radicals have actually secured the two-thirds necessary to pass the Bill. In the Senate they have actually succeeded in expelling one of the members who was a friend of the President, and the most high-handed measures are resorted to for the accomplishment of their purpose. The contest is close, and when the final vote on the Bill is taken, an exhibition of the most animated scenes may be expected. One member of the Senate, Senator Wright, who is sick and in a very low condition, 220 miles from Washington, has consented to be taken to Washington on a bed, to vote on the passage of the Bill; and for this purpose a locomotive is kept with steam up and car attached on the sidings, ready to carry this Senator to the Senate chamber, when the summons over electric wire shall bid him come. In Connecticut an exciting election canvass has been going on between the rival parties. The Republicans have spared no labor to elect a Republican Senator in this State, and thus secure their end in spite of the Veto. In this election the President concluded to throw the weight of presidential Patronage in favor of the Democrats, expecting thereby to secure a Democratic Senator from that State, and thus effectually check-mate the Radicals in their mad career. The political condition of the country is at fever heat, and will not be cooled down probably for some time to come.

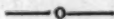
EUROPE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on Saturday, April 7th, says the apprehension was very general, that hostilities would break out. There were rumors that Prince Napoleon's visit to Italy related to the eventuality of war. Marshal Neil had suddenly arrived at Paris, and had interviews with the Emperor. General Count Pelikar had also been summoned to join this conference.

VIENNA, April 8.—It is rumored that a despatch has just been sent to Count Karolyi, the Austrian representative in Berlin, in reply to the last note of Herr von Bismark. Austria, it is stated, reiterates the demand contained in

her note of the 31st ult., and expresses the hope that Prussia will give explanations as unreserved relative to the meaning of her warlike preparations, as those afforded by Austria with regard to the pretended concentration of her troops.

BRUSSELS, April 9th.—The *Independance Belge* affirms that the Duke of Coburg has communicated directly to the King of Prussia conciliatory letters received from Count Mensdorff. The same paper states positively, that after the correspondence between the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia, the former sovereign sent General Richter to Vienna to call upon Austria to disarm. Austria, it is said, will probably make her disarmament conditional upon Prussia also disarming. It is believed that the intervention of Russia, though it may not lead to any settlement of the difficulty, will nevertheless prevent for some time any further complication. It is reported that Count Bismark intends to propose the convocation of the German Parliament.

VARIETIES.



Some improvements have been provisionally specified by Messrs. Matthews and Fereday, of Wolverhampton, which consist in constructing furnaces for steam-boilers, and for other purposes, with a bridge flue and a series of traversing flues, partly open and partly closed; in the closed flues the smoke is retained until burnt by the flame which traverses the open flues.

A spring of natural ink—a mineral substance resembling crude petroleum, but without any smell, and possessing all the qualities of the finest writing fluid—has been discovered in Los Angeles, in the vicinity of Buena Vista Lake, California.

NEW STEAM GENERATOR.—An improved safety-boiler has been introduced by Mr. Joseph Harrison, jun., of Philadelphia, United States, which is claimed to combine essential advantages in absolute safety from explosion, in cheapness of first cost and cost of repairs, durability, economy of fuel, facility of cleaning and transportation, not possessed by any other boiler now in use.

HARDENING AND TEMPERING STEEL.—Mr. E. Savage, of West Meriden, U. S., has patented an invention, whereby any piece or article of steel may be hardened or tempered to any degree required at so low a temperature for the preliminary heating that the shape or configuration of the most delicate or complicated character is not altered, the requisite tenacity being at the same time preserved. The principle upon which these results are effected lies in the employment of solutions in which to immerse the heated steel which possesses a very high degree of conducting character for heat, so that the utmost rapidity in the cooling will be attained, for in this the true theory of the operation appears to be involved.

EXTRAORDINARY FEMALE LONGEVITY.—The late cold weather which so suddenly set in, told seriously on the aged. In three days the deaths of 23 ladies and eight gentlemen were recorded, whose united ages amounted to 2,632 years. Of the ladies, 23 were octogenarians and three nonagenarians, whose united ages amounted to 1,969 years, giving an average of 85 years and seven months to each. The oldest was 95, and the youngest 80 years of age. The united ages of the eight gentlemen amounted to 663 years giving an average of 82 years and 10 months to each. The oldest was 86, and the youngest 80 years of age.

The United States coin about 100,000,000 dollars annually from their gold and silver mines.

THE CANADIAN TIMBER TRADE.—The following estimate may serve to show the extent of the active industry yearly carried on in the depths of the Canadian forest. In 1863 about 27,000,000 cubic feet of timber was cut on the Ottawa and its tributaries. No less than 25,000 men are engaged in getting out and manufacturing this timber for market. There are annually consumed 12,000 barrels of pork and 15,000 barrels of flour in the production of square timber. The horses devour 6,000 tons of hay and 275,000 bushels of oats.

Every day 13,392 tons of water are converted into steam and discharged into the air from locomotive engines alone in Great Britain.